

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02149 242016 Z

61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 INR-10 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 /049 W
----- 027629

R 241000 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3975

S E C R E T JIDDA 2149

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR: NEA/ ARP DIRECTOR DICKMAN AND PM/ DTY DIRECTOR
PICKERING FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJ: TENURE OF CHIEF USMTM B/ GEN SMITH

SUMMARY: PRINCE SULTAN ASKED CINCEUR GEN' L GOODPASTER
EXTEND TOUR IN SAUDI ARABIA OF CHUSMTM B/ G SMITH. IN
INTERESTS OF CONTINUITY WE SUGGEST SMITH BE EXTENDED TO
DECEMBER- JANUARY. BELIEVE THIS WILL SATISFY SULTAN.
MOREOVER, TWO AND A HALF YEARS IN PRESENT VERY WEARING
CHUSMTM POSITION PROBABLY ENOUGH FOR ANY OFFICER. ACTION
REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT. TAKING MATTER UP WITH
APPROPRIATE OFFICE IN DOD OR DEPT. ARMY. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CINCEUR GENERAL GOODPASTER' S TALK HERE LAST
MONTH WITH PRINCE SULTAN, LATTER REQUESTED THAT GEN SMITH' S
TENURE OF DUTY IN SAUDI ARABIA BE EXTENDED. GEN SMITH
HAS INFORMED GEN GOODPASTER THAT HE IS AGREEABLE TO THIS,
AND I BELIEVE DOD MAY BE RECEIVING GEN GOODPASTER' S VIEWS
IN MATTER IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. I HAVE VERY HIGH ESTIMATE OF GEN SMITH' S CAPABILITIES,
AND HE HAS DONE A FINE JOB HERE, PARTICULARLY IN GAINING
FULL CONFIDENCE OF THE SAUDIS. HE IS CONSCIENTIOUS AND
THOROUGH, AND I HAVE FELT HAPPY TO HAVE SUCH A CAPABLE
OFFICER CARRYING THESE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 02149 242016 Z

3. ONE IMPORTANT ADVANTAGE OF HAVING GEN SMITH' S TUNURE EXTENDED WOULD BE TO PROVIDE SOME CONTINUITY. IN NEXT FEW WEEKS, WE FACE EXODUS SENIOR COLONELS HEADING UP ARMY AND AIR FORCE SECTIONS, AS WELL AS SHOLE RANGE OF OTHER OFFICERS WHO, AT END OF ONE YEAR' S SERVICE, HAVE JUST BECOME THROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THEIR JOBS.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HAVE BETTER CHANCE THIS YEAR THAN EVER TO PERSUADE PRINCE SULTAN TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR SOME FAMILY VILLAS IN USMTM COMPOUND IN RIYADH AND INCIDENT-ALLY, WE WILL PRESS AGAIN FOR FAVORABLE SAUDI CONSIDERATION FOR EVENTUAL SHIFTING CHUSMTM' S RESIDENCE AND HEADQUARTERS FGOM DHAHRAN TO RIYADH. HOWEVER, CONSTRUCTION OF NEEDED VILLAS AND ASSIGNMENT OF MARRIED OFFICERS WILL PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY A YEAR FROM NOW, SO THAT AGAIN IN EARLY SUMMER '74 WE WILL UNDEGO THE ANNUAL SUMMER TURN-OVER IN KEY PERSONNEL. (WE HAVE SOME OFFICERS WITH FAMILIES IN DHAHRAN.)

5. IN INTERESTS OF CONTINUITY, THEREFORE, I RECOMMEND GEN SMITH BE EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER- JANUARY WITH MINIMAL TIME GAP BEFORE ARRIVAL HIS SUCCESSOR. THE NEW CHIEF WOULD THEN BE WELL GROUNDED IN OERATIONS BEFORE HE HAD TO FACE ANNUAL SUMMER ROLL- OVER OF PERSONNEL. I THINK THIS WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO PRINCE SULTAN.

6. I DO NOT WISH TO QUALIFY IN ANY WAY MY STRONG ENDORSE-EMTN AND WARM SENSE OF APPRECIATION FOR GEN SMITH' S FINE PERFORMANCE. BUT CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IS A WEARING JOB THESE DAYS WITH NECESSITY FOR DEALING WITH WIDE VARIETY OF POLITICAL/ MILITARY MATTERS, FREQUENT TRIPS TO JIDDA AND RIYADH, ENDLESS WEAR AND TEAR OF LIAISON WITH SAUDIS, WHO ARE OFTEN UNREASONABLE IN THEIR DEMANDS AND NOT ALWAYS MODELS OF ORGANIZATION WHEN IT COMES TO IMPLEMENTING THEIR SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY. MOREOVER, THERE ARE SOME AREAS IN WHICH U. S. MILITARY DEPARTMENTS ARE NOT GIVING CHUSMTM BEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT. FOR EXAMPLE, MISSION' S AIRCRAFT (TWO OLD AND BATTERED DC-4' S) ARE SLOW AND UNRELIABLE. SMITH HAS STRUGGLED ENDLESSLY TO OBTAIN IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND I AM RENEWING EFFORTS WITH CINCEUR TO OBTAIN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 02149 242016 Z

BETTER SUPPORT IN BOTH THESE MATTERS. TWO AND A HALF YEARS AS CHUSMTM IS PROBABLY ENOUGH FOR ANYONE.

7. IF DEPT SEES NO OBJECTION, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF SOUNDINGS COULD BE TAKEN WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICE IN DOD OR DEPT OF ARMY TO DETERMINE WHAT STAGE DECISION MAKING PROCESS HAS REACHED WITH REGARD TO FUTURE INCUMBENT OF

CHUSMTM AND TO EXPRESS A STATE DEPT RPT STATE DEPT VIEW ON
LINES MENTIONED ABOVE.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE WORD WHEN CONVENIENT ON DEPT' S FINDINGS
AND/ OR ACTION IN THIS MATTER.

THACHER

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA02149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730554/aaaajtxm.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980305
Subject: TENURE OF CHIEF USMTM B/ GEN SMITH
TAGS: MASS, SA
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005